

**Steering Committee:**

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Roberto Gutierrez, Vice Chairman

Tom Craddick  
Dianne White Delisi  
Harold Dutton

Bob Hunter  
Carl Isett

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Elliott Naishtat  
Joe Pickett

Robert Puente  
Bob Turner  
Steve Wolens

# HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

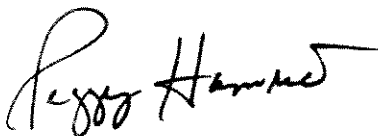
## daily floor report

Wednesday, January 10, 2001  
77th Legislature, Number 2  
The House convenes at 10 a.m.

The House is expected to consider the House Rules for the 77th Legislature today. A summary of proposed changes begins on page 2. Also, at the conclusion of House business today, members will receive training in using the laptop computers at their desks.

The Sunset Advisory Commission will meet today at 2 p.m. or adjournment in Room E2.036 of the Capitol Extension to decide on recommendations concerning the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attorney General's Child Support Division, Texas Railroad Commission, Texas Energy Coordination Council, Texas Water Development Board, Office for Prevention of Developmental Disabilities, and Funeral Service Commission.

Yesterday, all House members received ballots to approve or disapprove the slate of seven members nominated to serve four-year terms on the House Research Organization Steering Committee. Please return your ballots to the HRO office (E2.180) by Friday, January 12.



Peggy Hamric  
Chairman  
77-2

## **PROPOSED HOUSE RULE CHANGES**

The proposed changes in the House Rules for the 77th Legislature, distributed to the members yesterday, would amend the rules used during the 76th Legislature. The proposed changes are summarized below, with the rules affected and the page numbers of the proposed changes cited in parentheses.

### **Committee Jurisdiction**

The number of members on the Redistricting Committee would increase from 11 to 15 (Rule 3, sec. 29, page 36).

The Land and Resource Management Committee would receive jurisdiction over "problems and issues particularly affecting rural areas of the state" (Rule 3, sec. 21, page 30).

Committee jurisdiction over state agencies would be revised to delete abolished agencies, add newly created agencies, and reflect agency name changes. These changes would affect the Environmental Regulation, Public Health, Public Safety, and State Affairs committees (Rule 3, pages 25-26, 35, and 37).

### **Committee Procedures**

A committee chair could summon the governing board or other representatives of a state agency to appear and testify before the committee without formally issuing process. The summons could be issued in writing, orally, or electronically. If the persons summoned failed or refused to appear, the committee could issue process to compel their attendance (Rule 4, sec. 21(b), pages 54-55).

### **Elimination of Emergency Clause**

In 1999, the Legislature adopted and the voters approved a constitutional "clean-up" amendment, HJR 62 by Mowery (Proposition 3). Among other changes, this amendment repealed the constitutional requirements that an emergency justify that a bill take effect less than 90 days after the Legislature adjourns (Texas Constitution, Art. 3, sec. 39) and that legislation explicitly state that an "imperative public necessity" requires suspending the rule that bills be read on three separate days (Art. 3, sec. 32). As a result, the "emergency clause" that formerly appeared as the final section of each bill no longer is required. (See HRO Interim News Number 76-8, *Final Bill Clause Will Disappear*, October 20, 2000.) Rule 8, sec. 15 (pages 133-134) and sec. 20 (page 135) would be revised to reflect this change.

Rule 8, sec. 20 also would be revised to clarify that bills other than the general appropriations act take effect on the 91st day after adjournment, unless the Legislature provides for an earlier effective date by a vote of two-thirds of the membership of each house (page 135).

### **Appropriations Bill Deadline**

The proposed change to Rule 8, sec. 22(a) would prohibit the House from considering during the session's first 118 days, rather than the first 120 days, legislation affecting the amounts available for appropriation before final passage and certification of the general appropriations bill, subject to various exceptions (page 136).

### **Rules Interpretation**

Hind's and Cannon's Precedents for interpreting the rules of the U.S. House of Representatives would be eliminated as specific authority for interpreting the rules of the Texas House of Representatives. Instead, Rule 14, sec. 1, would refer more generally to the "published precedents" of the U.S. House (page 164).